



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Saratoga

National Historical Park
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN **2004**



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Dedication

A National Park Service general management plan is truly a collective effort. The planning process itself encourages wide-ranging participation and consensus building. A plan like this one for Saratoga National Historical Park contains the contributions of many people in both the public and private sectors, Park Service and non-Park Service.

Although this general management plan does not have, and indeed should not have, a single author, there is one person who was indispensable to its success. That person is recently retired Superintendent Doug Lindsay. A plan may be written and assembled by others, but it is the commitment of the park superintendent that really determines whether it will succeed.

With calm leadership, Superintendent Lindsay took the long view and never wavered in his commitment to this plan. More than ten years' experience at Saratoga gave him the perspective to see how rapidly things were changing and convinced him of the urgent need to prepare for new problems that were coming over the horizon.

In charge of a military site, Superintendent Lindsay displayed the steady qualities of a victorious commander. He never lost sight of his objective, was not disturbed by unimportant skirmishing, and had confidence in his subordinates. By trusting junior officers with important responsibilities, he encouraged them to develop their abilities to the fullest. If Burgoyne had had more of these qualities, he might have reached Albany!

This general management plan, finalized just as Superintendent Lindsay was retiring in 2004, represents his legacy to the park and to the National Park Service. With great appreciation, we are pleased to dedicate this published version to Doug Lindsay.

**Saratoga National Historical Park, 1777:
A Revolutionary War Stronghold**

"...English captains, officers, and men, also Brunswick chasseurs who were assigned there, grasped and pulled on the lines to maneuver the guns. The entire line of these regiments once again formed a front. My cannons, by means of their faithful assistance, were suddenly on the height. The cartridges were carried up in the men's arms and placed beside the guns, and as soon as I mounted the terrain, I quickly fired twelve or fourteen shots, one after the other, at the enemy standing under a full fire at about a good pistol shot distance from me..."

— George Pausch: Hesse Hannau Artillery





Looking toward the Future

A Word from the Superintendent

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For those who stayed with the entire process of preparing this general management plan, I'm sure there were times when the procedure seemed quite lengthy. However, as a new manager on the scene, I can assure you that the effort was worthwhile. A general management plan is a lot like a medical checkup: it evaluates the present condition of the park's health and prescribes measures to keep it healthy. Whereas a person should have an annual physical exam, a park can usually go 20 years (or in this case even longer) between checkups because parks operate on a much longer time frame than any individual.

The evaluation showed that, overall, the park is in fine shape. The reasons for its existence remain as valid, if not more so, than ever. With one of the most intact of the major Revolutionary War battlefields, enhanced by the resources of the Old Saratoga Unit, Saratoga National Historical Park is undeniably one of America's treasures, a vital element in the creation of our nation. Now, we find that the park's lands are increasingly valued not only as an historical shrine, but as open space, a sort of biological reservoir for the surrounding region.

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The planning process made it clear that the park was on the right course. As a result, no radical change in direction was necessary. The various adjustments called for in the plan are needed because of the great changes in the park's operating environment that have taken place in the 35 years since the last plan.

While taking pride in what the National Park Service has done so far, we must be careful not to slip into complacency. The sweeping changes that made a new plan necessary are not going away; if anything, they are accelerating. For example, the increasing awareness of the park's value as open space is a direct result of development in Saratoga County. Today, the scenery and the views around the park still recall the appearance of the land when Burgoyne arrived. Maintaining that integrity is one of the great challenges we face. I am confident that whatever we do to make this park more authentic and more attractive also makes this a better area to live in.



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As the plan recognizes, the National Park Service can no longer accomplish its goals by itself. The days when a park superintendent's vision stopped at the park boundary are long gone. If we are going to achieve the goals described in this plan, we need the active involvement of many supportive individuals and groups. With the ever-increasing demands placed on park staff, it is obvious that only through partnerships can we preserve park resources, tell Saratoga National Historical Park's story to a wider audience, and work successfully with the many related sites along the historic warpath.

This is an exciting time to begin my job as superintendent of one of America's premier parks. I look forward to working with you to implement this plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank Dean

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